

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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PASS USDA AND AID

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, WFC, OCON
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOURTH SESSION

REF: STATE 69982

1. FODAG MET WITH HARRY WALTERS OF WFC TO REVIEW HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS MEETING AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF COUNCIL SESSION IN MEXICO. HIS OBSERVATIONS COINCIDED WITH THOSE REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. THREE POINTS WALTERS DID BRING UP WHICH HE SAID WERE NOT DISCUSSED DURING HIS VISIT IN WASHINGTON WERE:

(A) WFC DOCUMENTATION FOR COUNCIL SESSION IN MEXICO WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL;

(B) HE IS PLANNING TO BE IN WASHINGTON AGAIN IN THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL, FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS, TO "CRYSTALLIZE" THE SITUATION AFTER TALKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL
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AGENCIES.

(C) WALTERS STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE U.S. TO SEND TO THE INFORMAL MEETING IN BELLAGIO, IF HELD, (SEE REFTEL PARA 3) A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL TO DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING AND SO U.S. COULD BE IN POSITION TO MAKE DECISIONS. WALTERS STATED HE WAS PLANNING TO TRY AND SET UP THE MEETING

IN BELLAGIO FOR THE FIRST PART OF MAY AND NOT IN LATE APRIL
AS STATED IN REFTEL. ALSO, PURPOSE OF MEETING IS SOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT THAN THAT STATED IN REFTEL IN THAT WALTERS HOPED
WHAT WOULD COME OUT OF MEETING WOULD B A "SORT" OF ANY
AGREEMENT OF WHAT PRINCIPAL AGENCIES AND COUNTRIES COULD
DO ON FOOD PLAN PROPOSALS.

3. WALTERS STATED, IN HIS OPINION, BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF
PROGRESS IN THE GRAINS NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, THE GRAIN
RESERVE QUESTION WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AT COUNCIL MEET-
ING IN MEXICO.GARDNER

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